

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-14, 16-25, 27-30, and 32-50 and objected to claims 15, 26 and 31. However, the Examiner also indicated that claims 15, 26, and 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Based on the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have chosen to place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1, 17, 28, 34, and 43 to include subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. First, Applicants incorporated allowable dependent claim 15 into independent claim 1. Second, Applicants incorporated allowable dependent claim 26 into independent claim 17. Third, Applicants incorporated allowable dependent claim 31 into independent claim 28. Fourth, Applicants incorporated subject matter indicated by the Examiner as allowable into independent claims 34 and 43. Upon entry of these amendments, the claims that remain pending in the present application are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 8, 14, 16, 17, 22, 27, 28, 33, 34, 38-43, and 48-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Choudhury et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,876,233). As discussed above, independent claims 1, 17, 28, 34, and 43 have been amended to include subject matter which has been indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the section 102 rejections and allowance of independent claims 1, 17, 28, 34, and 43 and the claims that depend therefrom.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 3-7, 9-13, 18-21, 23-25, 29, 30, 32, 25, 26 and 44-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Choudhury et al. (U.S. Patent No.

5,876,233) in view of Reid (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,614). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-7, 9-13, 18-21, 23-25, 29, 30, 32, 25, 26 and 44-47 are allowable based on their dependencies on claims 1, 17, 28, 34, and 43, which have been amended to include subject matter indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3-7, 9-13, 18-21, 23-25, 29, 30, 32, 25, 26 and 44-47.

Conclusion

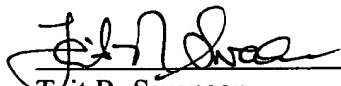
Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite further prosecution, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Authorization to Debit Deposit Account

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 (a), and any fees required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to deposit account no. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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